Dear Jim,

4/1/75

Lat night you repeated to me Bud's relaying of a proposition from Guiccione of Penthouse that you and I be rewarded suitably and financially for Penthouse having from Jimmy Ray what is represented as his story. I was shocked by the gross impropriety of the entire matter, by its contrast with Bud's record when I had arranged for an entirely ~~xxxx~~ different kind of interview and by the fact that in effect he was asking us to get Jimmy to enter what has to amount to a guilty plea in order to be publishable in any form in that kind of magazine. I asked you to make a complete record and to date it for our and Ray's protection and not to use against Bud.

As soon as we finished talking I felt I had to inform Jim McKinley. First I had a long call from a college student and then I made two unsuccessful efforts to reach Jim. Later he called me and I told him this story. It shocked him also. I felt that because of the past (several ways) and the manner in which Bud personally had abused Jim and Playboy I had to inform Jim. I also wanted to talk to him to learn if he had any word from Norman with regard to Post Mortem.

This past includes Bud's personally breaking up an entirely harmless interview with Ray about the conditions of his confinement, the details preserved in columinous correspondence, on the spurious ground that I would be paid and this would be wrong, both false. It also include the breaching of my confidence, again with Penthouse, with regard to the transcript pribted in Whitewash IV. You have personal knowledge of this and that I had entirely different plans Bud thus pre-empted.

I have made this record while informing you because you should know that I felt the obligation to inform Jim. I told him I felt the people I had dealt with recently ought to know but not for any public use and not for use against Bud.

It is an odd coincidence that when I phoned you a little after 11 a.m. yesterday I told you, based on other matters connected with Guiccione, Penthouse and O'Toole I was finding it increasingly impossible to content myself with explanations that Bud is merely irrational on the subject of political assassinations. I regard what he was part of in this instance as a gross a violation of his client's rights as an attorney can be capable of. Even if he knows us well enough to know that we can't be bribed that he would even relay such a proposition is in istelf personally insulting to me and I think an outrage. The immediate problem I see is that there is no safe way of letting Jimmy know and I'm not certain that the needs of his defense permit it. If there were any means by whcih those expenses Bud has met could be met I'd want to tell Jimmy this personally and others things of like nature some of which I think he may well suspect.

Jim will be letting us know in a few days when he'll be coming. He would prefer to interview us together. I told him it would be impossible for me to make those trips to Washington and I felt it would be impossible for you to come here those days. I still have six of yesterday's orders to complete. This kind of work is extraordinarily time consuming. Fortunately and unfortunately it is regular. However, while I don't want to put all that extra mileage on my car maybe I'll have to let some orders accumulate and other work go. But I hate to think of it. I haven't had a chance to reread the 1/22 transcript or to read McKee's decision at all. The pressure I feel to get this work done had me awake a little after three this morning. I did stay in bed until 5 but I really ought not be putting these kinds of hours in. I'm too tired. What I am saying is that maybe I'll change from what I told Jim but I know I should not.

Jim knows our New York schedule. He will be here and have the interviews completed before then.

We now have what I regard as a rather desparate situation in which the two senior and experienced counsel for all practical purposes want to sell their client out. They now both want Jimmy, who claims to be innocent and who is proven innocent by the evidence, to plead guilty, Bud by what amounts to an out-of-court public "confession." The one thing I can think of is that Bill should know.

Best,